

heart of the community. It has been a shining example of a faith community that ministers to its own while reaching out with a welcoming hand to the larger community in a myriad of ways. The pastor and parishioners of St. Nicholas Church have much about which to celebrate and be proud. We extend to them a hearty wish for continued success as a beacon of spiritual inspiration to those throughout the greater Wyoming Valley.

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED  
SPECIES RECOVERY ACT OF 2005**

SPEECH OF

**HON. RICHARD W. POMBO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 29, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3824) to amend and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide greater results conserving and recovering listed species, and for other purposes:

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Chairman, regarding the Judicial jurisdiction under H.R. 3824, the United States District Court shall have jurisdiction over an action by a requestor arising over a written determination under Section 12(d) or a claim for aid under Section 13 of the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act, including the determination of the documentation of the foregone use and the fair market value thereof.

**CELEBRATING HISPANIC  
HERITAGE MONTH**

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate with my amazingly diverse constituents in the 12th Congressional District of California Hispanic Heritage Month. I am grateful that September 15th through October 15th has been set aside to commemorate the extraordinary heritage and the significant contributions that people of Hispanic descent have made to the United States.

Hispanic and Latino influence predates the establishment of our Nation and can be seen in the discovery and founding, as well as the continued prosperity of America. The influence of Mexican Americans, Cuban Americans, and every other American of Hispanic descent, has enriched our country. Currently, 26 Hispanic Americans serve in the House of Representatives, and two serve in the Senate. In every war in American history, Hispanic Americans have displayed valor and courage. Over 1.1 million Hispanic Americans have served in the U.S. armed forces. Indeed, 41 men of Hispanic heritage have received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

KQED, a nationally recognized public broadcaster, has awarded the following four outstanding individuals for their work in the community through the 2005 Latino Heritage Local Heroes. They are but a few of the wonderful people who have worked to make my community great.

Mr. Speaker, Felix Bedolla, a Northern California native, has served in multiple leadership roles in the arts, education, and youth mentoring. Mr. Bedolla is the program director of Aldea/Nuestra Esperanza, which is a Latino Multi-Service Center offering drug, alcohol and mental health counseling and treatment services, parent support groups, Latino youth mentoring programs, and gang violence suppression programs.

Carlotta del Portillo, the Dean of the Mission Campus of City College of San Francisco, has facilitated access to educational opportunities and has developed vocational job training programs, which have provided a great assistance to many Hispanic Americans. Through her service in city government and community groups, Dr. del Portillo has had a positive and lasting effect on human rights, education, the Fire Department, the role of women in the Fire Department, national parks, and so much more.

Mr. Speaker, Joel Garcia has also centered his career on helping others. Specifically, Mr. Garcia contributes to his community by securing access to health and human services to the needy. Joel serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Inc., a non-profit, federal-qualified community health center that provides primary care health services in southern Alameda County. He plays an influential role in academia by publishing research on health law, policy, and administration.

I would like to underscore the contributions of my friend, Pedro Gonzalez, who has devoted his life to the city of South San Francisco for many years. As a public servant, he has served as a council member and mayor. Through his career, he has worked for affordable housing, childcare assistance for low-income families, national parks, community service, recreation, and education among many other issues. As president and co-founder of Historical Old Town Homeowners and Renters Association, Pedro implemented the "Siempre Adelante" program, an informational program for the community on parenting and civic participation.

In addition to those honored by KQED, I wish to further single out many other deserving leaders who have contributed so much to my community. These are the giants of government and community service who work so tirelessly around the Peninsula.

Last year, my good friend, José Cisneros was appointed by Mayor Gavin Newsom as Treasurer for the City and County of San Francisco. I have known José for a long time, and as the City's banker and chief investment officer, the City of San Francisco is in very able hands. José Cisneros received his Bachelor of Science from Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and studied for his MBA at Boston University.

Mr. Speaker, the County of San Mateo is lucky to have Ortensia Lopez. As a resident of San Mateo County since 1975 and as the Executive Director of the Concilio of San Mateo County, she has helped to improve public health, energy efficiency, employment, job training, race relations, conditions for the disadvantaged, banking, and commerce. Ms. Lopez was the first member of her family to graduate from college and has won multiple awards, including "Woman Who Could Be President".

Since 1996, Daly City has benefited from the public service of Sal Torres, the city's first elected Latino official. Through his various offices in Daly City, including mayor, vice mayor and city council member, Mr. Torres has shown exemplary leadership in transforming the city into a family and children friendly place. He dedicated the Bayshore Community Center for the use of the Mid-Peninsula Boys and Girls Club as well as several parks. During his years of service Daly City ranked among the top 10 safest cities with populations exceeding 100,000.

The efforts of Elizabeth Quiros as the President of the San Mateo County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce have helped countless Hispanic Americans in my district. Her organization works as an information resource and provides networking and expansion opportunities for all its members. The success of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in promoting Hispanic business, under Ms. Quiros's, influence manifested in the Chamber's recognition as the 2004 Small Hispanic Chamber of the Year. Ms. Quiros has worked tirelessly to identify the needs of the Hispanic Community and ensuring equity in the treatment of Hispanic Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the problems that the Hispanic community faces with the Nation as a whole are daunting. According to the latest data and statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Latinos represent 14 percent of the population of the United States but account for 20 percent—over 164,000—of AIDS cases nationally. AIDS-related illnesses represent the fourth leading cause of death among Latinos between 25 and 44. In order to promote awareness and prevention, I support the 3rd Annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day on October 15, 2005. We need to continue to work toward legislation to help Hispanic Americans.

This month our Nation can take a long look back at the myriad of contributions that the Hispanic community has offered and continues to offer. Hispanic Heritage Month also helps us renew our focus on difficult issues that face this community: racial profiling, affordable housing, language barriers, and unfair immigration policy.

Mr. Speaker, this vibrant part of our community offers an array of perspectives that are firmly woven into the fabric of America, and I am extremely proud to serve as a representative of a community that consists of so many great Americans. I encourage all Americans to participate in this month of celebration. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions that Hispanic Americans have made to our Nation.

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SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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